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**FEDERAL - STATE - PRIVATE  
COOPERATIVE SNOW SURVEYS**

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# **WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK FOR NEVADA**

Prepared by

**U. S. DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE ★ SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE**

Collaborating with

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT of CONSERVATION and NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION of WATER RESOURCES**

Data included in this report were obtained by the agencies named above in cooperation with Federal, State and private organizations listed on the last page of this report.

AS OF  
**MAR. 1, 1971**

## TO RECIPIENTS OF WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK REPORTS:

Most of the usable water in western states originates as mountain snowfall. This snowfall accumulates during the winter and spring, several months before the snow melts and appears as streamflow. Since the runoff from precipitation as snow is delayed, estimates of snowmelt runoff can be made well in advance of its occurrence. Streamflow forecasts published in this report are based principally on a measurement of the water equivalent of the mountain snowpack.

Forecasts become more accurate as more of the data affecting runoff are measured. All forecasts assume that climatic factors during the remainder of the snow accumulation and melt season will interact with a resultant average effect on runoff. Early season forecasts are therefore subject to a greater change than those made on later dates.

The snow course measurement is obtained by sampling snow depth and water equivalent at surveyed and marked locations in mountain areas. A total of about ten samples are taken at each location. The average of these are reported as snow depth and water equivalent. These measurements are repeated in the same location near the same dates each year.

Snow surveys are made monthly or semi-monthly from January 1 through June 1 in most states. There are about 1900 snow courses in Western United States and in the Columbia Basin in British Columbia. Networks of automatic snow water equivalent and related data sensing devices, along with radio telemetry are expanding and will provide a continuous record of snow water and other parameters of key locations.

Detailed data on snow course and soil moisture measurements are presented in state and local reports. Other data on reservoir storage, summaries of precipitation, current streamflow, and soil moisture conditions at valley elevations are also included. The report for Western United States presents a broad picture of water supply outlook conditions, including selected streamflow forecasts, summary of snow accumulation to date, and storage in larger reservoirs.

Snow survey and soil moisture data for the period of record are published by the Soil Conservation Service by states about every five years. Data for the current year is summarized in a West-wide basic data summary and published about October 1 of each year.

### PUBLISHED BY SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

The Soil Conservation Service publishes reports following the principal snow survey dates from January 1 through June 1 in cooperation with state water administrators, agricultural experiment stations and others. Copies of the reports for Western United States and all state reports may be obtained from Soil Conservation Service, Western Regional Technical Service Center, Room 209, 701 N. W. Glisan, Portland, Oregon 97209.

Copies of state and local reports may also be obtained from state offices of the Soil Conservation Service in the following states:

STATE	ADDRESS
Alaska	P. O. Box "F", Palmer, Alaska 99645
Arizona	6029 Federal Building, Phoenix, Arizona 85025
Colorado (N. Mex.)	12417 Federal Building, Denver, Colorado 80202
Idaho	Room 345, 304 N. 8th. St., Boise, Idaho 83702
Montana	P. O. Box 970, Bozeman, Montana 59715
Nevada	P. O. Box 4850, Reno Nevada 89505
Oregon	1218 S. W. Washington St., Portland, Oregon 97205
Utah	4012 Federal Bldg., 125 South State St., Salt Lake City, Utah 84111
Washington	360 U.S. Court House, Spokane, Washington 99201
Wyoming	P. O. Box 2440, Casper, Wyoming 82601

### PUBLISHED BY OTHER AGENCIES

Water Supply Outlook reports prepared by other agencies include a report for California by the Water Supply Forecast and Snow Surveys Unit, California Department of Water Resources, P. O. Box 388, Sacramento, California 95802 --- and for British Columbia by the Department of Lands, Forests and Water Resources, Water Resources Service, Parliament Building, Victoria, British Columbia



# **WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK FOR NEVADA**

and  
FEDERAL - STATE - PRIVATE COOPERATIVE SNOW SURVEYS

*Issued by*

**KENNETH E. GRANT**  
ADMINISTRATOR  
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.



*Released by*

**CHARLES A. KRALL**  
STATE CONSERVATIONIST  
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE  
RENO, NEVADA

*In Cooperation with*

**ELMO J. DE RICCO**  
DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
CARSON CITY, NEVADA



*Report prepared by*

**DONALD W. McANDREW**, Snow Survey Supervisor  
and

**JOHN D. RODA**, Assistant Snow Survey Supervisor  
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE  
P. O. BOX 4850  
RENO, NEVADA

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### DETAILED WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK BY MAJOR AREAS:

Truckee, Carson, and Walker Watersheds .....	Area 1
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ALL AVERAGES ARE FOR 1953-67 PERIOD



AREA LOCATIONS

# INDEX TO NEVADA SNOW COURSES

( By Basins )

Refer to the map on the following page for Snow Course locations.

NUMBER	NAME	SEC.	TWP.	RGE.	ELEV.
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## Snake River Basin

Snake River					
15H1MA	BEAR CREEK	31	46N	58E	7800
15H2	FOX CREEK	33	46N	58E	6800
15H13A	GOAT CREEK	31	46N	60E	8800
15H15A	HUMMINGBIRD SPRINGS	6	45N	60E	8945
14H1	JACKS CREEK	6	42N	62E	7000
15H20a	MERRITT MOUNTAIN	10	46N	54E	7000
15H14	POLE CREEK RANGER STATION	13	46N	59E	8330
15H18a	REO POINT	15	47N	61E	7940
15H3A	76 CREEK	6	44N	58E	7100
15H19a	5TAG MTN	29	41N	58E	7800

Owyhee River					
15H4MP	BIG BEND	30	45N	56E	6700
16H6a	COLUMBIA BASIN	31	44N	53E	6650
16H8a	FAWN CREEK	2	45N	52E	7000
15H5	GOLD CREEK	32	45N	56E	6600
16H1M	JACK CREEK, LOWER	18	42N	53E	6800
16H2A	JACK CREEK, UPPER	9	42N	53E	7250
16H4	JACKS PEAK	28	42N	53E	8420
16H5	LAUREL DRAW	20	45N	53E	6700
17G4a	LOUSE CANYON (OREG.)	27	40S	44E	6440
15H9MP	TAYLOR CANYON	35	39N	53E	6200

## Interior

Upper Humboldt River					
15J17a	AMERICAN BEAUTY	32	31N	58E	7800
15J12a	CORRAL CANYON	27	28N	57E	8500
15J1MP	DOORSEY BASIN	28	35N	60E	8100
15J3	ORY CREEK	5	34N	60E	6500
15H7	FRY CANYON	31	43N	54E	6700
15J9MP	GREEN MOUNTAIN	23	29N	57E	8000
15J10	HARRISON PASS #1	9	28N	57E	6600
15J11	HARRISON PASS #2	16	28N	57E	7400
15J4	LA MOILLE #1	15	32N	58E	7100
15J5	LA MOILLE #2	14	32N	58E	7200
15J6M	LA MOILLE #3	24	32N	58E	7700
15J7	LA MOILLE #4	19	32N	59E	8000
15J8P	LA MOILLE #5	31	32N	59E	8700
15J18a	POLE CANYON	31	35N	61E	9140
15J16a	ROBINSON LAKE	23	33N	59E	9200
15H6MP	RODGO FLAT	36	43N	53E	6800
15J2	RYAN RANCH	1	34N	59E	5800
15H8	TREMEWAN RANCH	9	39N	55E	5700
15H10P	TROUT CREEK, LOWER	28	37N	61E	6900
15H11A	TROUT CREEK, UPPER	4	36N	61E	8500

Lower Humboldt River					
17K1	BIG CREEK CAMP GROUND	10	17N	43E	6600
17K2	BIG CREEK MINE	23	17N	43E	7600
17K3	BIG CREEK, UPPER	26	17N	43E	7800
17H2	BUCKSKIN, LOWER	25	45N	39E	6700
17H1	BUCKSKIN, UPPER	11	45N	39E	8200
17L1	CORRAL, LOWER	12	11N	40E	7500
17L2	CORRAL, UPPER	20	11N	41E	8000
17J2	GOLCONA #2	22	35N	39E	6000
17H4	GRANITE PEAK	22	44N	39E	7800
17H5	LAMANCE CREEK	13	42N	38E	6000
17H3	MARTIN CREEK	18	44N	40E	6700
16H3AP	MIOAS	18	39N	46E	7200
16H7	TOE JAM a	29	40N	50E	7700

Eastern Nevada					
14L1	BAKER #1	29	13N	69E	7950
14L2	BAKER #2	30	13N	69E	8950
14L3	BAKER #3	25	13N	68E	9250
14K2	BERRY CREEK	26	17N	65E	9100
14K1	BIRO CREEK	34	19N	65E	7500
15J13	CAVE CREEK	25	27N	57E	7500
15J14	HAGER CANYON	34	27N	57E	8000
15J15	HOLE-IN-MTN	6	35N	61E	7900
14K8	KALAMAZOO CREEK	34	20N	65E	7400
14K3	MURRAY SUMMIT	25	16N	62E	7250
15K1	ROBINSON SUMMIT	34	18N	61E	7600
14K7	SILVER CREEK #2	30	16N	69E	8000
14K5	WARO MOUNTAIN #2	25	15N	62E	8900

Central Great Basin					
18M2	CAMPITO MTN (CAL.)	19	55	35E	10200
18H15a	CHIATOVICH FLAT	32	25	34E	10500
15N2	CLARK CANYON	8	19S	56E	9000
18M1	MONTGOMERY PASS	4	1N	33E	7110
18M3a	PINCHOT CREEK	28	1N	33E	9300
18M4a	PIUTE PASS (CAL.)	33	4S	33E	11700
15N1	TROUGH SPRINGS	23	18S	55E	8500

Northern Great Basin					
19H1	BALO MOUNTAIN	17	45N	21E	6720
20H5	BARBER CREEK (CAL.)	23	39N	16E	6500
20H6	CEGAR PASS (CAL.)	12	43N	14E	7100
18G6a	OENIO CREEK (OREG.)	14	41S	34E	6000
18H1	OISASTER PEAK	8	47N	34E	6500
20H3a	OISALM SWAMP (CAL.)	31	48N	22E	7000
20H7	EAGLE PEAK (CAL.)	35	40N	15E	7200
19H3	49-MTN	7	42N	19E	6000
19H2	HAYS CANYON	1	39N	18E	6400
19H4a	LITTLE BALLY MTN	8	45N	19E	6000
20H9	MT. BOWEN	16	47N	16E	7200
20H10	NORTH STAR	13	47N	15E	6200
17G5a	OREGON CANYON (OREG.)	9	40S	40E	7240
17H6a	QUINN RIDGE	9	47N	41E	6300
20H4	RESERVATION CREEK (CAL.)	12	46N	15E	5900
18G5a	TROUT CREEK (OREG.)	10	41S	38E	7800

NUMBER	NAME	SEC.	TWP.	RGE.	ELEV.
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## Lake Tahoe

20L5	ECHO SUMMIT (CAL.)	6	11N	18E	7450
19L2	FREEL BENCH (CAL.)	36	12N	18E	7300
19K6	GLENBROOK #2	13	14N	18E	6900
19L3MSZ	HAGANS MEADOW (CAL.)	36	12N	18E	8000
20L4	LAKE LUCILLE (CAL.)	28	12N	17E	8200
19K4M5TZ	MARLETTE LAKE	18	15N	19E	8000
20L3	RICHAROSONS #2 (CAL.)	6	12N	18E	6500
20L1	RUBICON #1 (CAL.)	6	13N	17E	8100
20L2	RUBICON #2 (CAL.)	6	13N	17E	7500
20K16	TAHOE CITY (CAL.)	6	15N	17E	6250
19L1	UPPER TRUCKEE (CAL.)	21	12N	18E	6400
20K17M	WARO CREEK (CAL.)	21	15N	16E	7000
20K255TZ	WARO CREEK #2 (CAL.)	21	15N	16E	6750

## Truckee River

20K14	BOCA #2 (CAL.)	28	18N	17E	5900
20K22	BROCKWAY SUMMIT (CAL.)	3	17N	16E	7100
20K21	DOONER PARK #2 (CAL.)	18	17N	16E	6000
20K10*	DOONER SUMMIT (CAL.)	25	17N	14E	6900
20K7*	FOROYCE LAKE (CAL.)	34	18N	13E	6500
20K8	FURNACE FLAT (CAL.)	10	17N	13E	6700
19L10	HEAVENLY VALLEY	1	12N	17E	8850
20K4MP	INDEPENDENCE CAMP (CAL.)	34	19N	15E	7000
20K3	INDEPENDENCE CREEK (CAL.)	14	19N	15E	6500
20K5	INDEPENDENCE LAKE (CAL.)	9	18N	15E	8450
19K3	LITTLE VALLEY	17	16N	19E	6300
19K2	MT. ROSE	7	17N	19E	9000
19K7	MT. ROSE SKI AREA	30	17N	19E	9000
20K6	SAGE HEN CREEK (CAL.)	7	18N	16E	6500
20K19	SQUAW VALLEY #2 (CAL.)	6	15N	16E	7500
20K13M	TRUCKEE #2 (CAL.)	22	17N	16E	6400
20K2	WEBBER LAKE (CAL.)	29	19N	14E	7000
20K1*	WEBBER PEAK (CAL.)	30	19N	14E	8000

## Carson River

19L5	BLUE LAKES (CAL.)	30	9N	19E	8000
19L4	CARSON PASS, UPPER (CAL.)	22	10N	18E	8600
19K5	CLEAR CREEK	6	14N	19E	7300
19L19a	EBBETTS PASS (CAL.)	17	8N	20E	8700
19L16a	FISH VALLEY, UPPER (CAL.)	18	7N	22E	8050
19L06a	POISON FLAT (CAL.)	25	8N	21E	7900
19L18a	WET MEADOWS LAKE (CAL.)	26	9N	19E	8100
19L20a	WOLF CREEK (CAL.)	35	8N	20E	8000

## Walker River

19L11	BUCKEY FOLKS (CAL.)	20	4N	23E	8500
19L10	BUCKEY ROUGHS (CAL.)	15	4N	23E	7900
19L12A	CENTER MOUNTAIN (CAL.)	4	3N	23E	9400
18L1	LAPON MEADOW	36	8N	28E	9000
19L8	LEAVITT MEADOWS (CAL.)	4	5N	22E	7200
19L17a	LOBOELL LAKE (CAL.)	20	7N	24E	9200
18L2	MT. GRANT	23	8N	28E	9000
19L7M	SONORA PASS (CAL.)	1	5N	21E	8800
19L235TZ	SONORA PASS BRIDGE	6	5N	22E	8800
19M1*	TIOGA PASS (CAL.)	30	1N	25E	9900
19L13M	VIRGINIA LAKES (CAL.)	5	2N	25E	9500
19L9	WILLOW FLAT (CAL.)	21	5N	23E	8250
19L22aZ	VIRGINIA LAKES RIDGE	32	3N	25E	9200

## Colorado

### Lower Colorado River

15N5	KYLE CANYON	27	19S	56E	8200
15N4	LEE CANYON #1	10	19S	56E	8400
15N3	LEE CANYON #2	9	19S	56E	9200
15N8	LEE CANYON #3	10	19S	56E	8500
14M1	MATHEW CANYON	10	6S	70E	6000
14M2	PINE CANYON	23	6S	69E	6200
15N7	RAINBOW CANYON #2	6	20S	57E	8100
15L1	WHITE RIVER #1	31	13N	59E	7400

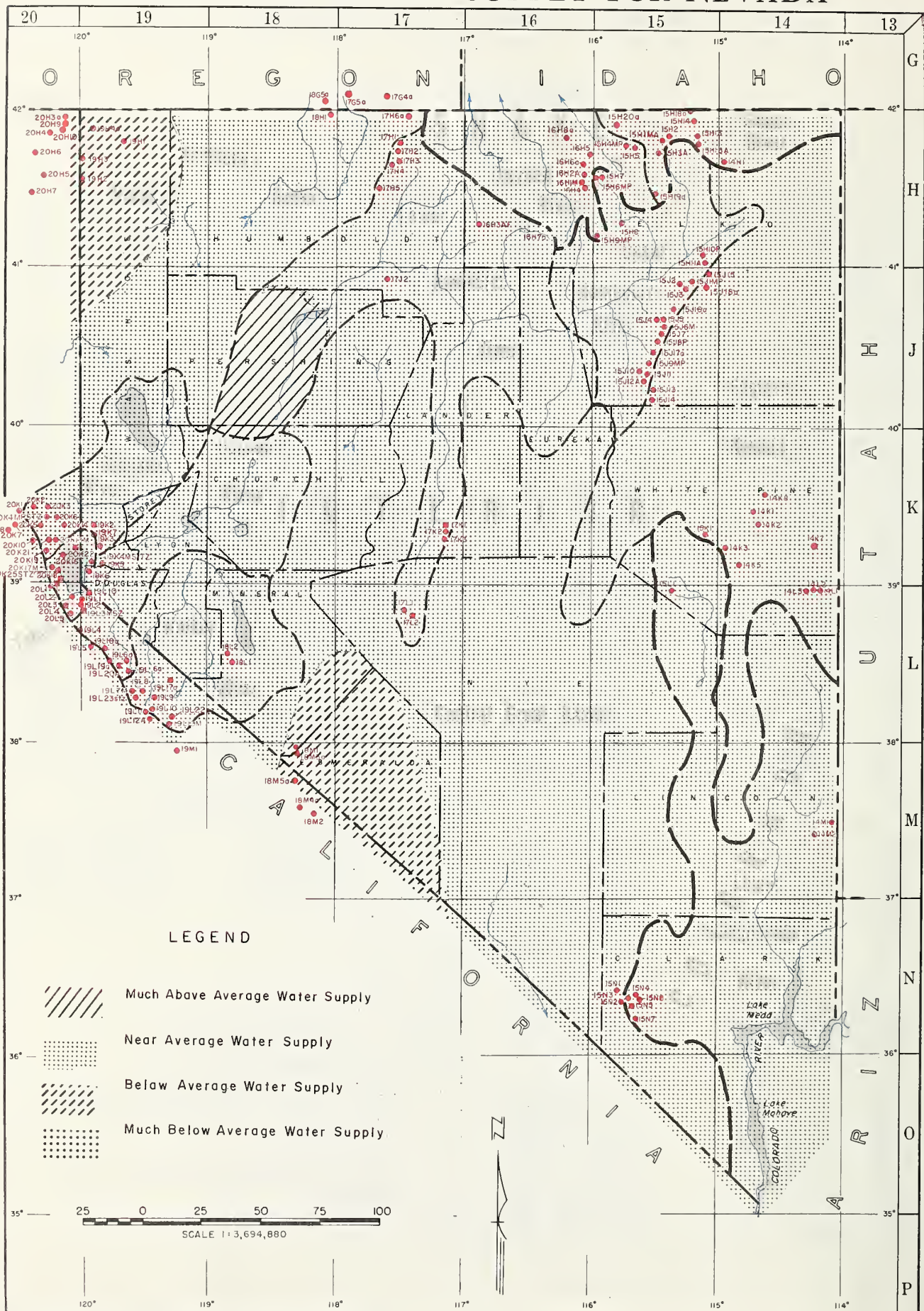
## LEGEND NUMBERING SYSTEM (EXAMPLE)

19K4	SNOW COURSE ONLY
19K4S	SNOW COURSE AND SNOW PILLOW
19K4M	SNOW COURSE AND SOIL MOISTURE
19K4A	SNOW COURSE AND AERIAL MARKER
19K4P	SNOW COURSE AND STORAGE PRECIPITATION GAGE
19K4MA	SNOW COURSE, SOIL MOISTURE AND AERIAL MARKER
19K4MP	SNOW COURSE, SOIL MOISTURE AND PRECIPITATION GAGE
19K45TZ	SNOW COURSE, SNOW PILLOW AND TEMPERATURE RADIO TELEMETERED.

LOWER CASE LETTERS m, b, d, s, l, z, INDICATE NO SNOW COURSE, ONLY A SOIL MOISTURE STATION, AERIAL MARKER, STORAGE PRECIPITATION GAGE, SNOW PILLOW, TEMPERATURE, OR RADIO TELEMETERED.

\*LOCATED ON ADJACENT WATERSHED

# PROSPECTIVE WATER SUPPLY FOR NEVADA



# WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK FOR NEVADA

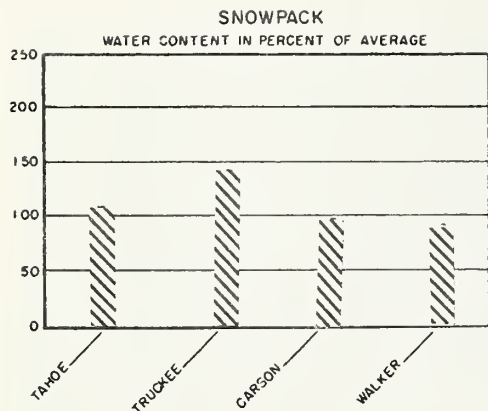
AS OF MARCH 1, 1971, NEVADA'S WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK IS FOR GENERALLY NEAR TO SLIGHTLY ABOVE AVERAGE SUPPLIES FOR THE MAJOR PORTION OF THE STATE. THE MOUNTAIN SNOWPACK IS GENERALLY A NEAR-AVERAGE 90 TO 104 PERCENT THROUGHOUT MOST OF THE STATE. EXCEPTIONS TO THIS TREND ARE THE TRUCKEE RIVER DRAINAGE, WITH 135 PERCENT OF NORMAL SNOW COVER, AND THE SURPRISE VALLEY AREA, WITH 80 PERCENT OF AVERAGE SNOWPACK.

RESERVOIR STORAGE IS EXCELLENT THROUGHOUT THE STATE, WITH ALL MAJOR RESERVOIRS STORING MORE WATER THAN NORMAL FOR THIS DATE. CURRENTLY, STORAGE IN THE STATE'S IRRIGATION RESERVOIRS IS 143 PERCENT OF AVERAGE.

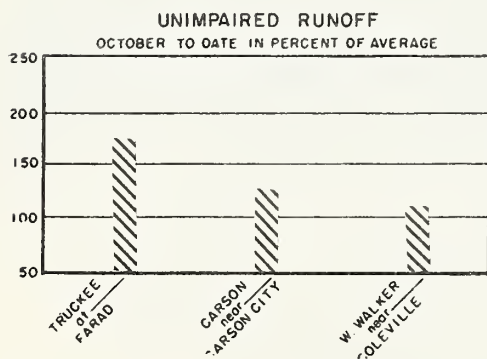
Snowfall since the first of the year has been below average. Weather patterns throughout the mountains have been very erratic; warm temperatures and rain during mid-January shifting to high winds, with only a few light snowstorms throughout a major portion of the state during February.

This season's varying weather pattern has left the much-above-average early season snowpack generally near normal at this date. However, there is considerable variation within each basin. Snow courses indicating 30 percent greater than average adjoin courses showing below normal snow conditions. This situation is largely due to the high wind action on the snowfields during the past month.

The snowpack on the Sierra Nevada watersheds that drain into Nevada varies from 135 percent of average on the Truckee River drainage to 91 percent on the Walker River.



Streamflow forecasts in the Truckee-Carson-Walker River drainages reflect the near normal snowpack conditions. Forecasts vary from 90 percent on the Walker River to a high of 130 percent on the Little Truckee River.

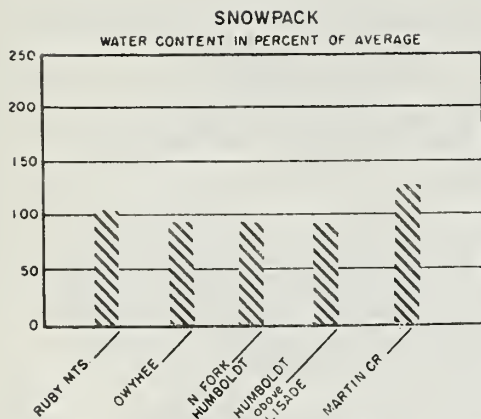


Streamflow to date this season has been above average to much above average.

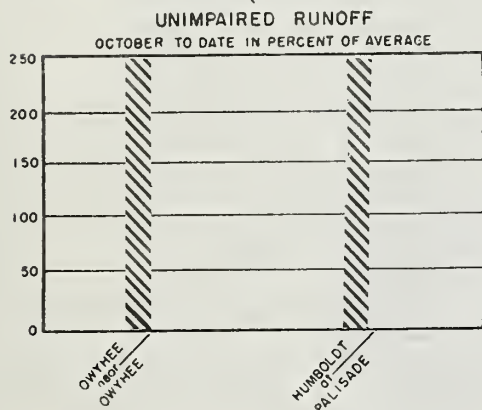
All mountain soil moisture stations in the Sierra Nevada are indicating below normal soil moisture conditions. The above-normal runoff throughout the area indicates that only the top soil strata of the watershed is in this dry condition. This deficit in soil moisture should not affect runoff materially this year.

Reservoir storage is excellent in the Truckee and Carson areas. Lake Tahoe currently contains 530,000 acre feet, which is almost 130 percent of average for this date. Lahontan has 231,000 acre feet impounded as of March 1.

The snowpack in the Humboldt drainage is slightly below average at 95 percent. Many low-elevation courses in the basin show very little snow at this time, while in the higher elevations snow conditions are generally above normal.



The Owyhee River drainage is similarly slightly below average for this date, while the Upper Snake River drainage was on the edge of the storm pattern that deposited heavy snows in Idaho. Currently, this area shows 148 percent of snowpack. This will produce excellent water supplies in the Salmon Falls Creek Watershed in Nevada.

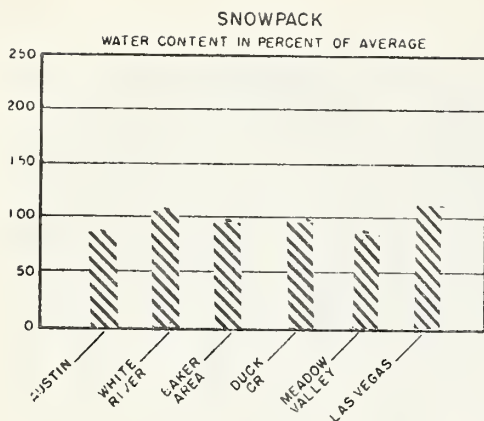


Streamflow has been extremely heavy in the Humboldt River Basin so far this season. This is one of the reasons for the excellent carry-over storage in Rye Patch Reservoir. There are currently 185,000 acre feet of storage in Rye Patch Reservoir, which insures water users under the system excellent supplies this season. The capacity of this reservoir has been increased by adding 12" splash boards to the spillway this year.

The water supply outlook for small tributaries of the Humboldt River are as follows:

Expressed as "Poor, Fair, Average, Excellent" With Respect to Usual Supply.

STREAM or AREA	Flow Period	
	Spring Season	Late Season
Franklin River	Fair	Average
Kings River	Average	Fair
Little Humboldt River	Average	Average
Quinn River	Average	Fair



Snow surveys in East Central and Southern Nevada show near average conditions for this date. Much of this area experiences the maximum snow depth for the year typically by March 1. Little, if any, snowfall is expected during March.

The snowpack in the White Mountains above Fish Lake Valley is very deficient. This deficiency will similarly affect the flow of the small streams above the Fish Lake Valley area.

The water supply outlook for the small streams in Central and Southern Nevada are as follows:

Expressed as "Poor, Fair, Average, Excellent" With Respect to Usual Supply.

STREAM or AREA	Flow Period	
	Spring Season	Late Season
Baker Creek	Average	Average
Duck Creek	Average	Average
Silver Creek	Average	Average
Meadow Valley Wash	Average	Fair
White River	Average	Fair
Reese River	Fair	Fair

The snowpack above the Surprise Valley area in Northern Nevada and California is generally near 80 percent of average. This area can expect some water shortages, especially in the later part of the irrigation season.



# STREAMFLOW FORECASTS (Thousand Acre Feet) as of: March 1, 1971

Forecasts are based on snow-water presently stored in the mountain watersheds and the assumption that precipitation will be near average throughout the forecast period. Peak flow forecasts indicate the most probable range for the maximum average 24-hour flow. All averages are for 1953-67 period.

FORECAST POINT	Forecast Period	Forecast This Year	This Year as Percent of Average	Average +
<u>TRUCKEE RIVER</u>				
Little Truckee River above Boca, Calif. <sup>1</sup>	Apr.-July	112	130	81
Truckee River at Farad, Calif. <sup>1,2</sup>	Apr.-July	300	116	258
Lake Tahoe Rise in Feet (From April 1, assuming gates closed) <sup>2</sup>	Apr.-High	1.55	111	1.39
<u>CARSON RIVER</u>				
East Carson near Gardnerville, Nevada	Apr.-July	181	103	175
West Carson at Woodfords, Calif.	Apr.-July	55	107	51
Carson River near Carson City, Nevada	Apr.-July	166	100	166
Carson River at Fort Churchill, Nevada	Apr.-July	157	104	150
<u>WALKER RIVER</u>				
East Walker near Bridgeport, Calif. <sup>1</sup>	Apr.-Aug.	54	90	60
West Walker below Little Walker near Coleville, Calif.	Apr.-July	143	96	143
<u>COLORADO RIVER</u>				
Virgin River at Virgin, Utah	Apr.-June	40	105	38
<u>HUMBOLDT RIVER</u>				
Lamoille Creek near Lamoille, Nevada	Apr.-July	26	104	25
South Fork Humboldt near Elko, Nevada	Apr.-July	62	106	58
Marys River above Hot Springs, Nevada	Apr.-July	32	114	28
North Fork Humboldt at Devils Gate, Nevada	Apr.-July	25	96	26
Humboldt River at Palisade, Nevada	Apr.-July	165	107	154
Humboldt River at Comus, Nevada	Apr.-July	115	105	110
Martin Creek near Paradise, Nevada	Apr.-July	14	100	14

+ 1953-1967 period.

# STREAMFLOW FORECASTS (Thousand Acre Feet) as of: March 1, 1971

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FORECAST POINT	Forecast Period	Forecast This Year	This Year as Percent of Average	Average †
<u>SNAKE RIVER</u>				
Owyhee River near Owyhee, Nevada <sup>1</sup>	Apr.-July	73	122	60
Owyhee River near Gold Creek, Nevada <sup>1</sup>	Apr.-July	20	125	16
Salmon Falls Creek near San Jacinto, Nevada	Mar.-July	100	149	67
<u>SURPRISE VALLEY</u>				
Bidwell Creek near Ft. Bidwell, Calif.	Apr.-July	11.0	95	11.5
Mill Creek near Cedarville, Calif.	Apr.-July	4.5	95	4.7
Deep Creek near Cedarville, Calif.	Apr.-July	3.2	96	3.3
Eagle Creek near Eagleville, Calif.	Apr.-July	4.3	100	4.3
<sup>1</sup> Corrected for storage <sup>2</sup> Forecast issued by Truckee Basin Committee				

† 1953-1967 period.

# **PEAK FLOWS** (MAXIMUM MEAN DAILY) (Av. flow for 24 hrs. on day of greatest flow)

FORECAST POINT	PEAK FLOW (SECOND FEET)		
	Forecast Range	Average †	
Little Truckee River - Inflow to Stampede Reservoir	1050 - 1200	902	
East Fork Carson River near Gardnerville, Nevada	1700 - 1800	1724	
Carson River near Carson City, Nevada	1800 - 1900	1825	
Carson River at Fort Churchill, Nevada	1650 - 1735	1678	
West Walker River below Little Walker near Coleville, California	1480 - 1560	1548	

## **FORECAST DATE of LOW FLOW VALUES**

FORECAST POINT	Low Flow Value Second/Ft.	Forecast Date Stream Will Recede to Low Flow Value	Average Date of Low Flow Value
East Carson River near Gardnerville, Nevada	200	7/17	7/23

## **SOIL MOISTURE MEASUREMENTS**

STATION	Profile (Inches)		Soil Moisture (Inches)		
	Depth	Capacity	Date	This Year	Average †
<u>OWYHEE-HUMBOLDT BASIN</u>					
Bear Creek	72	16.9	Delayed		10.6 *
Big Bend	48	16.7	2/23	16.5	15.4 *
Rodeo Flat	42	11.0	2/23	7.7	10.6 *
Taylor Canyon	48	15.1	2/23	14.2	13.0 *
<u>TAHOE-TRUCKEE BASIN</u>					
Hagans Meadow	36	3.7	2/26	2.6	5.3 *
Independence Camp	34	6.1	2/22	2.6	5.6 *
Marlette Lake	50	3.7	2/25	2.0	3.1 *
Ward Creek	49	5.8	2/24	3.8	5.6 *
<u>WALKER BASIN</u>					
Sonora Pass	48	8.3	2/25	5.7	
Virginia Lakes Ridge	40	5.0	2/24	2.3	
* Adjusted average					

† 1953-1967 period.

# RESERVOIR STORAGE (Thousand Acre Feet) as of March 1, 1971

Basin or Stream	RESERVOIR	Usable Capacity	Usable Storage		
			This Year	Last Year	Average†
Owyhee	Wild Horse	72	47	12	15
Lower Humboldt	Rye Patch	179	185	173	74
Colorado	Mohave	1,810	1,700	1,616	1,697
Colorado	Mead	27,217	16,523	16,853	16,416
Tahoe	Tahoe	732	530	646	412
Truckee	Boca	41	32	27	6
Truckee	Stampede	220	103	63	**
Truckee	Prosser ***	30	9	9	8 *
Carson	Lahontan	286	231	249	191
West Walker	Topaz	59	43	58	39
East Walker	Bridgeport	42	37	40	31
* Adjusted average. ** Storage began August 1, 1969 *** Flood control use allocation of 20,000 acre-feet between November 1 and April 10.					

## TOTAL RESERVOIR STORAGE (Thousand Acre Feet)

MONTH	This Year	Last Year	Average †
October 1	936	999	656
January 1	1,026	1,062	660
February 1	1,072	1,255	715
March 1	1,105	1,206	768
April 1		1,182	839
May 1		1,167	890
The above data developed from Wild Horse, Rye Patch, Tahoe, Boca, Lahontan, Topaz, and Bridgeport Reservoirs in 1,000 Acre-Feet. TOTAL USABLE CAPACITY 1,411			

† 1953-1967 period.

# SNOW COURSE MEASUREMENTS

SNOW COURSE MEASUREMENTS		THIS YEAR		PAST RECORD		
DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE		Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	Water Content (inches)	
NAME	Last Year				Average †	
LAKE TAHOE						
Echo Summit (Calif.)	3/1	98	32.1	31.0	28.7	
Freel Bench (Calif.)	2/26	36	13.9	9.0	10.6 *	
Glenbrook #2	2/27	37	12.2	10.1	10.4	
Hagans Meadow	2/26	37	14.0	16.9	15.7 *	
Heavenly Valley	2/25	67	26.4	28.2	-	
Lake Lucille (Calif.)	3/2	158	59.0	63.9	-	
Marlette Lake	2/25	45	16.6	21.6	17.5	
Richardsons #2 (Calif.)	2/27	46	18.4	11.7	14.9	
Rubicon #1 (Calif.)	3/2	128	48.2	44.2	38.3	
Rubicon #2 (Calif.)	3/2	73	28.6	27.1	23.6	
Tahoe City (Calif.)	Course Destroyed			7.7	10.2	
Upper Truckee (Calif.)	2/26	39	14.2	5.9	8.9 *	
Ward Creek #2 (Calif.)	2/24	91	39.3	33.7	34.3	
Ward Creek #3 (Calif.)	2/24	91	37.3	28.8	-	
TRUCKEE RIVER						
Boca #2 (Calif.)	2/26	26	10.2	1.2	6.1	
Brockway Summit (Calif.)	2/27	40	15.5	16.1	-	
Donner Park #2 (Calif.)	2/26	59	22.8	8.0	15.6 *	
Donner Summit (Calif.)	2/25	82	38.7	30.1	30.8	
Fordyce Lake (Calif.)	2/26	90	40.5 <sup>a</sup>	19.0 <sup>a</sup>	30.2 *	
Furnace Flat (Calif.)	2/26	91	41.0 <sup>a</sup>	31.0 <sup>a</sup>	35.2 *	
Independence Camp (Calif.)	2/22	62	24.8	15.0	19.4	
Independence Creek (Calif.)	2/22	46	16.6	6.6	12.8	
Independence Lake (Calif.)	2/22	102	43.2	36.6	32.3	
Little Valley	2/25	33	14.2	2.8	8.8 *	
Mt. Rose Ski Area	2/26	97	41.6	42.1	-	
Sage Hen Creek (Calif.)	2/23	53	21.0	10.0	16.1	
Squaw Valley #2 (Calif.)	3/3	129	52.9	45.4	41.9 *	
Truckee #2 (Calif.)	2/23	43	16.2	9.1	14.1	
CARSON RIVER						
Carson Pass, Upper (Calif.)	2/26	71	32.0 <sup>a</sup>	32.1	28.4	
Clear Creek	2/25	36	14.6	12.6	11.1	
Ebbetts Pass (Calif.)	2/26	79	30.8 <sup>a</sup>	39.6 <sup>a</sup>	-	
Fish Valley, Upper (Calif.)	2/26	30	11.4 <sup>a</sup>	12.5 <sup>a</sup>	11.7 *	
Poison Flat	2/26	28	10.1 <sup>a</sup>	12.2 <sup>a</sup>	14.4 *	
Wet Meadows Lake (Calif.)	2/26	52	20.3 <sup>a</sup>	24.8 <sup>a</sup>	-	
Wolf Creek (Calif.)	2/26	54	20.5 <sup>a</sup>	25.9 <sup>a</sup>	-	
WALKER RIVER						
Buckeye Forks (Calif.)	No Survey			18.6	-	
Buckeye Roughs (Calif.)	2/25	46	18.8	13.7	-	
Center Mountain	2/26	82	32.3	31.1	-	
Lobdell Lake	2/26	38	14.4 <sup>a</sup>	13.5 <sup>a</sup>	-	

† 1953-1967 period.

# SNOW COURSE MEASUREMENTS

SNOW COURSE MEASUREMENTS		THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD	
DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE		Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	Water Content (inches)	
NAME					Last Year	Average †
<u>WALKER RIVER (Continued)</u>						
Sonora Pass (Calif.)	2/25	53	21.5	20.5	19.8	
Virginia Lakes (Calif.)	2/24	28	10.6	13.8	15.4	
Virginia Lakes Ridge (Calif.)	2/24	42	14.8	12.9	-	
<u>NORTHERN GREAT BASIN</u>						
Bald Mountain	2/26	2	0.3	2.0	3.1	
Barber Creek (Calif.)	3/1	29	8.8	9.8	9.4*	
Cedar Pass (Calif.)	3/3	43	12.9	13.0	12.2	
Denio Creek (Oreg.)	Delayed			0.0	0.5*	
Disaster Peak	2/25	28	10.8	12.3	12.6	
Dismal Swamp (Calif.)	Delayed			13.0a	13.4*	
49 Mountain	2/25	3	0.5	1.2	3.9*	
Hays Canyon	2/25	3	0.6	1.2	3.4*	
Little Bally Mountain	Delayed			1.4	2.1*	
Oregon Canyon (Oreg.)	Delayed			4.4	5.2*	
Quinn Ridge	Delayed			0.0	2.3*	
Reservation Creek (Calif.)	2/26	23	7.8	9.1	9.2*	
Trout Creek (Oreg.)	3/2	28	8.1a	6.7	6.3*	
<u>SNAKE RIVER</u>						
Bear Creek	3/3	72	22.1	18.8	15.3*	
Fox Creek	3/3	41	12.3	9.6	7.9*	
Goat Creek	3/3	68	22.4	15.8	14.9*	
Hummingbird Springs	3/3	83	28.0	22.0	17.5*	
Merritt Mountain	3/2	9	2.6a	7.9a	-	
Pole Creek Ranger Station	3/3	73	23.5	17.8	15.3*	
Red Point	3/3	40	14.3	10.2	9.5*	
76 Creek	3/3	41	12.3	15.4a	9.1*	
Stag Mountain	3/2	9	2.6a	1.9a	-	
<u>OWYHEE RIVER</u>						
Big Bend	2/23	27	8.3	9.2	6.9	
Columbia Basin	3/2	21	6.1a	6.6a	-	
Fawn Creek	3/2	9	2.6a	2.6a	-	
Gold Creek	2/23	18	5.5	6.0	4.7	
Jack Creek, Upper	3/2	18	5.2a	5.9a	8.0	
Laurel Draw	2/24	13	4.0	6.4	6.2*	
Louse Canyon (Oreg.)	Delayed			0.3a	3.1*	
Taylor Canyon	2/23	5	3.1	3.3	4.2	

† 1953 - 1957 period.

# SNOW COURSE MEASUREMENTS

SNOW COURSE MEASUREMENTS		THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD	
DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE		Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	Water Content (inches)	
NAME					Last Year	Average †
<u>UPPER HUMBOLDT RIVER</u>						
American Beauty	3/2	18	5.2a	5.3a	-	
Corral Canyon	3/2	21	6.1a	15.8a	13.8	
Dorsey Basin	2/25	43	12.1	12.7	9.5	
Dry Creek	2/25	10	1.9	T	3.8	
Fry Canyon	2/23	10	3.7	7.9	6.0	
Green Mountain	3/1	41	11.2	15.5	10.6 *	
Harrison Pass #1	3/1	10	1.8	T	3.8	
Harrison Pass #2	3/1	17	4.2	T	5.1	
Lamoille #1	2/24	29	8.5	7.6	8.3	
Lamoille #2	2/24	21	6.0	7.1	7.7	
Lamoille #3	2/24	33	8.5	9.5	10.0	
Lamoille #4	2/24	51	17.4	14.9	15.0	
Lamoille #5	2/24	66	23.7	27.5	21.8	
Pole Canyon	3/2	24	7.0a	7.7a	-	
Robinson Lake	Est.	60	18.0a	27.7a	-	
Rodeo Flat	2/23	2	0.4	6.2	5.5	
Ryan Ranch	2/25	0	0.0	T	1.6	
Tent Mountain, Lower	3/2	72	26.0a	15.8a	-	
Tremewan Ranch	2/23	0	0.0	0.0	1.1	
Trout Creek, Lower	2/26	15	2.4	T	2.7 *	
Trout Creek, Upper	3/2	56	16.2a	13.2a	14.0 *	
<u>LOWER HUMBOLDT RIVER</u>						
Big Creek Camp Ground	2/26	8	1.4	0.0	1.6 *	
Big Creek Mine	2/26	17	3.7	1.7	3.5 *	
Big Creek, Upper	2/26	18	3.6	2.5	4.9 *	
Buckskin, Lower	2/23	20	7.1	8.2	6.7	
Buckskin, Upper	2/23	14	4.7	13.1	7.2 *	
Corral, Lower	2/26	7	1.4	-	1.2	
Corral, Upper	2/26	19	5.0	-	4.1 *	
Golconda #2	2/26	4	0.9	2.8	3.6 *	
Granite Peak	2/24	41	16.3	18.3	10.7	
Lamance Creek	2/24	21	8.4	12.0	7.5	
Martin Creek	2/23	20	7.1	9.3	7.8	
Midas	3/2	3	0.9a	0.0a	2.5 *	
Toe Jam	3/2	21	6.1a	8.9a	-	
<u>EASTERN NEVADA</u>						
Baker #1	2/23	28	5.9	3.8	5.1	
Baker #2	2/23	45	11.4	9.1	11.9	
Baker #3	2/25	36	10.8a	9.5a	13.6	
Berry Creek	2/25	53	14.9	11.5	11.1	
Bird Creek	2/25	17	3.9	2.6	3.5	

† 1953-1967 period.

# SNOW COURSE MEASUREMENTS

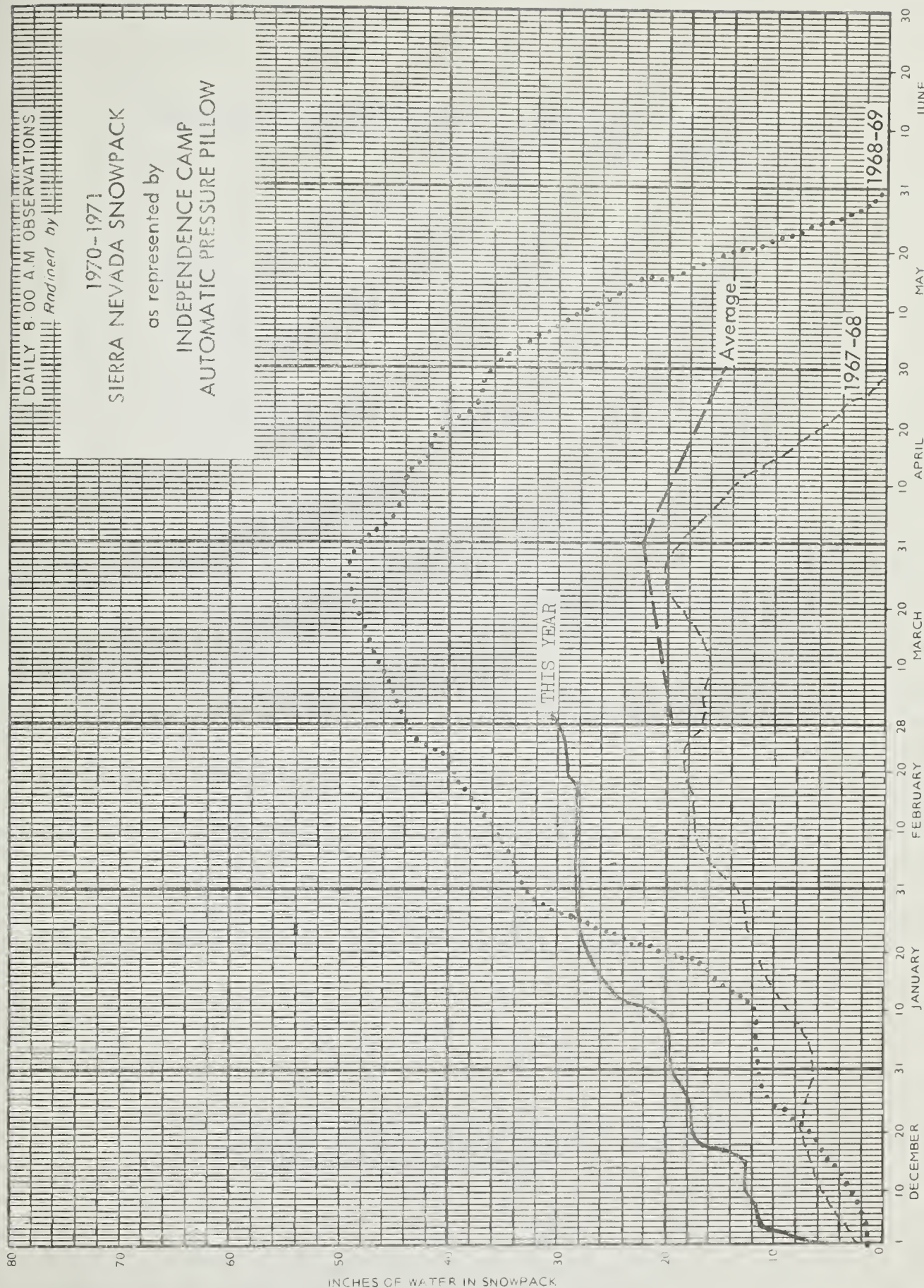
SNOW COURSE MEASUREMENTS					
DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE NAME	THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD	
	Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	Water Content (inches) Last Year      Average †	
<u>EASTERN NEVADA (Continued)</u>					
Hole-in-Mountain	3/2	65	22.0	21.5	17.5 *
Kalamazoo Creek	2/24	24	6.5	4.1	6.0 *
Mt. Defiance	2/25	55	17.1	8.9	-
Murray Summit	2/22	16	5.3	0.0	2.5
Robinson Summit	2/22	6	1.4	T	2.1
Silver Creek #2	2/25	24	6.7a	3.0a	4.8 *
Ward Mountain #2	2/25	18	5.1a	4.2a	8.2 *
White River #1	2/26	9	2.6	T	2.3 *
<u>CENTRAL GREAT BASIN</u>					
Campito Mountain (Calif.)	3/2	8	2.6	2.3	5.4 *
Chiatovich Flat	2/26	6	1.4a	2.4a	-
Clark Canyon	3/1	20	5.4	0.7	5.8
Montgomery Pass	2/26	0	0.0	0.0	1.0 *
Pinchot Creek	2/26	0	0.0a	0.0a	5.1 *
Piute Pass (Calif.)	2/26	0	0.0a	2.6a	6.2 *
Trough Springs	No Survey			T	4.6
<u>LOWER COLORADO RIVER</u>					
Kyle Canyon	2/26	23	8.2	1.3	7.1
Lee Canyon #2	2/26	20	6.5	3.0	7.2
Lee Canyon #3	2/26	20	6.4	1.7	5.3 *
Mathew Canyon	2/26	2	0.4	0.0	1.2
Rainbow Canyon #2	2/27	34	12.8	5.0	10.9
Pine Canyon	2/26	5	1.7	0.0	1.4
<p>NOTE: All averages based on 1953-67, 15 year period. Forecast period is April 1 through July 31 unless otherwise noted. a-Aerial marker; water content estimated. * 1953-67 adjusted average.</p>					

† 1953-1967 period.

# U.S.D.A. SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE DAILY RADIO REPORTS BY AUTOMATIC SNOW MEASURING STATION

DAILY 8:00 A.M. OBSERVATIONS  
*Revised by*

1970-1971  
 SIERRA NEVADA SNOWPACK  
 as represented by  
 INDEPENDENCE CAMP  
 AUTOMATIC PRESSURE PILLOW





## Agencies Cooperating in Collecting Data Contained in this Bulletin

### FEDERAL

- Agricultural Research Service
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- Forest Service
- Geological Survey
- Navy
- Soil Conservation Service
- U. S. District Court - Federal Water Master
- Weather Bureau

### STATE

- California Cooperative Snow Surveys
- California Department of Parks and Recreation
- California Department of Water Resources
- Colorado River Commission of Nevada
- Idaho Cooperative Snow Surveys
- Nevada Association of Soil Conservation Districts
- Nevada Department of Conservation & Natural Resources:
  - Division of Water Resources
  - Nevada State Forester
- Oregon Cooperative Snow Surveys
- Utah Cooperative Snow Surveys
- White Mountain Research Station, Univ. of California

### PRIVATE

- Amalgamated Sugar Company
- Kennecott Copper Corporation
- Nevada Irrigation District
- Owyhee Project North Board of Control
- Owyhee Project South Board of Control
- Pacific Gas and Electric Company
- Pershing County Water Conservancy District
- Sierra Pacific Power Company
- Truckee-Carson Irrigation District
- Walker River Irrigation District
- Washoe County Water Conservancy District

Other organizations and individuals furnish valuable information for the snow survey reports. Their Cooperation is gratefully acknowledged.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

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